

Regular Meeting – Monday, July 6, 2009

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met Monday, July 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Graham County Community Building at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Present were: Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Gene Trull and Steve Odom. Commissioner Snyder called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Snyder asked for public comment. No public comment given.
5. Rebecca Garland spoke to the board next with an update on the finances of the county. She stated that she was finishing the May finance statements and the county was still in the black with thirty to forty purchase orders outstanding. She stated that as of this day the cash balance was \$1.1 million dollars. She also stated that she needed to get a handle on all purchase orders and would need to keep an accounting at all times of all purchase orders. She stated that she is in the process of collecting all blank purchase orders that could be in some departments and stated this would be done to obtain internal control. All board was pleased with the reporting.
6. Commissioner Snyder gave Donna Cody a chance to speak stating that she had missed the public comment session. Donna stated that she had made requests to Kim Crisp to obtain documents from Kim, Lynn, Machele and the board. She stated that if the board did not get this information, she would sue and that the lawyer did not have to review these documents prior to the release of the records. She stated that the correspondence was for the insurance proposals.
7. Item #6 on the agenda, Sampson Teesateskie was not present.
8. Commissioner Snyder called for old business. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the Deals Gap property along with portions of Hwy 28 and Hwy 129 that is currently in Swain County to be put in Graham County and send to our Senators and Representatives. Commissioner Cable stated that he had called Senator Snow and Representative West and they were both on vacation. Commissioner Cable felt that we should talk to Swain County first and the newspaper editor, Bud stated that he had talked to some people in Swain County and thought they might go along with the request. After discussion among the board, Commissioner Smith made the motion to call a joint meeting with our board and the Swain County Board of Commissioners. The board agreed to the meeting to be scheduled at the end of July.
9. Commissioner Odom stated that Josh Carpenter, the county planner had presented a list of names that were willing to serve on the Energy Advisory Team. This team is all volunteers and their main purpose will be to go after any grant funding that would benefit our county. Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the team as listed below for a two year term. The team will be: Rebecca Garland, Johnnie Brooms, Josh Carpenter, Onley Williams, Bobby Cagle Jr., Marty Ritter and Eve Rogers. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Commissioner Odom asked for an update on the courthouse painting and stated that we needed to get this completed. Commissioner Trull stated that that courthouse had been cleaned on the Saturday, June 27, 2009 and was now ready for painting. The commissioners instructed the county manager to call Eric Phillips on Tuesday and instruct him to begin his roofing and then the painting could be completed.
11. Commissioner Odom asked about the pool and if all items from the checklist given by David Hyatt, Building Inspector, had been completed. County Manager Cody stated that the drainage pipes were being put in place. Commissioner Trull asked if McGill and Associates or Phillips and Jordan had been in touch with the county on getting the other matters settled. The county manager stated that he had not received word from either party.
12. Commissioner Odom asked about the probation parole office move. The county manager stated that our maintenance will be installing state lines with two weeks and the projected date to move will be August 1st.
13. Commissioner Odom asked if the move had been completed by the building inspector and the environmental health specialists to the health department. The county manager stated that he and the clerk had visited the offices today and the move was almost complete. He stated that J.R. Rodgers had a few more items that needed moving but the other offices were completed.
14. Commissioner Odom asked about the tax office server. The county manager stated that the server is here but the tax software was not available as of yet. Blair Hyder, tax assessor, stated that Perry Jones did not have the software available.
15. Commissioner Cable expressed his concerns on the need to adopt a resolution concerning major purchases being done two weeks prior to a new commission board being seated. He felt that we should contact other counties and ask the state to pass a ruling on this issue to prevent people from being vindictive toward the new boards.
16. Commissioner Trull stated that the Community Building needed repairs and repainting as well as the Senior Citizens Building and asked the county manager if the money was available in the new budget. The county manager stated that there was money in the new budget for these repairs. The board was in agreement of advertising bids for these projects.
17. Commissioner Snyder asked for new business. Commissioner Odom stated that the board received a request from Donnie Orr, Sanitation Director, that he needed a part time worker. The hours would not exceed twenty eight hours and no benefits will be given and the position would be subject to a lay off in the winter months. Commissioner Trull made the motion to advertise to hire a part time temporary worker for the sanitation department. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Commissioner Odom stated that he had talked to Lynn on the facility bond for reconstruction of buildings and thought that the board should consider looking into this for the upper plant to be a new administrative building. He also stated that social services and caps would be in the building also and the county would receive money back from the state for these offices and this would help pay the loan. All board was in agreement of looking into the possibility of this loan.
19. Commissioner Snyder stated that Blair Hyder, Tax Assessor, appointment was up and he needed to be reappointed. Commissioner Odom made the motion to appoint Blair Hyder for a two year term. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Commissioner Smith had

a question about Erma's position. Commissioner Snyder called for a vote. Vote unanimous.

20. Commissioner Snyder presented the board with a request from the Graham County Festival for an extra \$5000.00 to help with the costs of the festival. He stated that the festival was a great success. He stated that the board had put in \$7000.00 to the new budget and made a motion to allow \$5000.00 to be used for this festival. Commissioner Trull stated that the bills needed to be submitted and then the funds would get transferred and that did not need a motion. Commissioner Snyder rescinded his motion. All board was in agreement of allowing the \$5000.00 to be used for this year's festival.
21. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143.318-A (6) (3) for the purpose of personnel and attorney / client privilege. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Commissioner Odom made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. No decisions were made in closed session.
24. Commissioner Trull made a motion to approve the purchase of twelve new dumpsters from Bakers Waste Equipment, Inc. Commissioners Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Commissioner Smith read an article about Onslow County, NC and the cuts that they have been making and stated that seventy one positions had been cut and twenty three departments had been combined into eleven departments. She stated that our county had done very well considering the state of the economy.
26. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.